

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1067

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 08255

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC, TR, GK, CY

SUBJECT: EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION COUNCIL, SEPT 16: POLITICAL
COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS

REF STATE 219960

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING THE RESTRICTED POLITICAL COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS WHICH FOLLOWED THE FORMAL EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION COUNCIL, THE TURKS REQUESTED THE COMMUNITY TO MAKE A DEMARCHE TO THE US URGING THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO. THE EC DEMURRED BUT SAID THEY HOPED THAT THE SITUATION WOULD WORK OUT IN A MANNER SATISFACTORY TO TURKEY. IN ADDITION, THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN THAT SHOULD GREECE ATTAIN FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY IT WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO IMPEDE TURKEY'S PROGRESS TO FULL EC MEMBERSHIP. THE EC ASSURED CAGLAYANGIL THAT TURKISH INTERESTS WOULD BE PROTECTED. AT AN EVEN MORE PRIVATE HEAD-TO-HEAD TALK, THE EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT, ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR, DISCUSSED THE BREAK-DOWN OF THE CYPRUS INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS
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IN NEW YORK, AND REPORTEDLY TOLD CAGLAYANGIL THAT THE EC NINE

"TOOK A DIM VIEW" OF UDI BY TURKISH CYPRIOTS. END SUMMARY

2. TURKS URGE EC DEMARCHE ON US ARMS EMBARGO: THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED THE EC TO URGE THE US TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. HE SAID THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO MADE A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM DIFFICULT AND REMARKED RATHER BITTERLY THAT THE US IMPOSED NO ARMS EMBARGO TEN YEARS AGO WHEN THE GREEKS HELD 15,000 TURKISH PRISONERS ON CYPRUS. IN RESPONSE, RUMOR CONFINED HIMSELF TO THE STATEMENT THAT HE HOPED THE QUESTION OF THE ARMS EMBARGO WOULD SOON BE WORKED OUT TO TURKEY'S SATISFACTION. EC PERMREP SOURCES TELL US THAT THE TURKISH REQUEST CAME AS NO SURPRISE AND THAT THE EC DECIDED TO DEFLECT IT DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON SEPT 15.

3. TURKISH APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP: THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE GREEK APPLICATION FOR FULL EC MEMBERSHIP WAS BEING HANDLED. HE SAID THAT, WHILE TURKEY DID NOT OPPOSE GREEK MEMBERSHIP, HIS GOVERNMENT INSISTED THAT THE EVOLUTION OF GREECE INTO A FULL COMMUNITY MEMBER NOT BE PERMITTED TO INTERFERE WITH THE TURKISH DESIRE TO PROGRESS TO FULL MEMBERSHIP. CAGLAYANGIL SAID THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FORESEES ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DISADVANTAGES FOR TURKEY AS A RESULT OF FULL GREEK MEMBERSHIP AND URGED THE EC TO BE CAREFUL TO MINIMIZE THESE DISADVANTAGES. RUMOR, RESPONDING ON BEHALF OF THE EC, ATTEMPTED TO REASSURE CAGLAYANGIL THAT THE COMMUNITY ALSO WISHED TO SEE TURKISH INTERESTS PROTECTED. RUMOR NOTED THAT, UNDER ARTICLE 56 OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT, CONSULTATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE TO INSURE THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT BE DISADVANTAGED BY THE GREEK APPLICATION. RUMOR ALSO POINTED OUT THAT NO DECISION HAD AS YET BEEN MADE ON THE GREEK REQUEST AND THAT SOME TIME WAS LIKELY TO ELAPSE BEFORE THE COMMISSION ISSUED ITS OPINION WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE THE NEXT STEP IN THE PROCESS.

4. CYPRUS: FOLLOWING THE RESTRICTED SESSION AT WHICH THE MINISTERS, OR THEIR STANDINS, AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL NINE EC MEMBERS WERE PRESENT, RUMOR TOOK CAGLAYANGIL ASIDE FOR PRIVATE TALKS DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH CYPRUS. ACCORDING TO AN INFORMAL INTERVIEW GIVEN BY THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER FOLLOWING HIS MEETING, RUMOR BEGAN BY ASKING WHY THE INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNAL TALKS HAD BROKEN DOWN. CAGLAYANGIL RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT DENKTASH WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE. THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, HE SAID, DESIRED A BI-ZONAL FEDERATION WITH LIMITED AUTHORITY FOR A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN WHICH BOTH COMMUNITIES WOULD PARTICIPATE. THEY SOUGHT TO DIRECT THE TALKS TO SUCH CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS BUT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS FAILED TO SET FORTH ANY CLEAR PROPOSALS OR PLANS AND KEPT INSISTING ON THE IMMEDIATE DISCUSSION OF TERRITORIAL QUESTIONS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING, CAGLAYANGIL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE EC HAD NEVER TRIED TO PUT PRESSURE ON TURKEY AND HAD NEVER MADE THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE A CONDITION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EC-TURKISH RELATIONS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE COMMUNITY SOUGHT TO BE HELPFUL AND THAT HE TOOK RUMOR'S DISCUSSIONS IN THAT LIGHT. CAGLAYANGIL FURTHER TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD ASKED THE EC COUNTRIES IF THEY COULD GUARANTEE THAT THE US ARMS EMBARGO COULD BE LIFTED, NOTING ITS IMPACT ON THE CYPRUS SITUATION. IN RESPONSE, HE SAID RUMOR COULD GIVE NO SUCH ASSURANCES AND THE MATTER WAS NOT PURSUED.

6. UDI: ACCORDING TO PERMREP SOURCES, RUMOR TOLD CAGLAYANGIL THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD "TAKE A DIM VIEW" OF ANY UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, SAYING THAT SUCH A DECLARATION WOULD ONLY SERVE TO EXACERBATE THE SITUATION AT THIS TIME.

7. THE DISCUSSIONS UNDER THE FORMAL EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION COUNCIL WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL. GREENWALD

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